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NSC BRIEFING 17 June 1954

KOREAN ORDER OF BATTLE

I. C.C. Ground: (Armies - 43,441 men) -

A. Front - (Cease-Fire) - 8

(Present) - 4

B. Total - (Cease-Fire) - 19

(Present) - 11

C. Present Total -- 660,000 men.

D. Withdrawals began with armistice, have been gradual. Timing probably influenced by North Korean readiness.

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II. N.K. ground: (Corps - 28,892 men) -

A. Front - (Cease-Fire) - 2

(Present) - 4

B. Total - (Cease-Fire) - 6

(Present) - 6-8

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C. Present Total -- 356,000 men.

D. North Koreans apparently put in line as trained. N.K. and ROK troops opposite each other except on main portion of western front.

III. ROK ground: (Divisions - 14,000 men)

A. Front - (Cease-Fire)-10
(Present) -13

B. Total - (Cease-Fire)-15
(Present) -20

C. Present Total -- 623,000 men.

D. ROK replaced UN units in less critical areas as trained. However, ROK 2lst put in critical Chorwon area on 4 June.

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IV. US Ground: (Divisions - 18,000 men)

A. Front - (Cease-Fire) - 6

(Present) - 3

B. Total - (Cease-Fire) - 8

(Present) - 6

C. Present Total -- 235,500 men.

D. Commonwealth Division, Turkish Brigade and seven miscellaneous UN battalions (total 33,500) in addition to above.

V. Air Strength

A. N.K. AF -- 170 jets (MIG-15), 100 piston fighters and ground attack, all based North Korea; 40 jet bombers (IL-28), 30 piston bombers (TU-2), some in North Korea.

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B. Communist (Manchuria) -- 300 Chinese and 250 Soviet MIG-15's, 130 Chinese IL-28's plus some or all North Korean bombers.

C. ROK AF -- 80 F-51 fighters.

D. All N.K. AF aircraft except bombers moved into Korea just prior to or after armistice. Chinese air strength Manchuria decreased 100-125 MIG's, [redacted] N.K. AF strength about same.

VI. North Korean vs South Korean capabilities.

A. Approximately equal on ground.

B. N.K. greatly superior in air.

C. ROK deficient in antiaircraft.

D. North possesses higher total most major fire support weapons.

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E. Both dependent on outside logistical aid.

F. North air superiority and availability logistical support probably decisive.

VII. General.

A. Although enemy disposition defensive, Communists retain capability attack with little warning. Could not, due withdrawals, sustain major offensive without reinforcements.

B. Eight of 19 Chinese armies in Korea prior armistice now out. Strength reduced from wartime peak 872,000 to 660,000.

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C. Expansion, activation ground units has increased N.K. strength from 282,000 at armistice to 356,000. Major components: 19 infantry divisions, 7 infantry brigades, 7 armored regiments, 12 AAA regiments, 4 AAA battalions.

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E. Integration of Chinese into Korean units, on small scale, reported. No confirmation large-scale integration plan under way in connection Chinese withdrawals.

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VIII. Naval Forces

A. N.K. navy has small patrol and mine craft, but no major vessels.

B. ROK navy has 24 patrol, 11 amphibious, nine auxilliary vessels; no major vessels. Marine Corps is composed one brigade (2 regiments).

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